

test of the EAS. Broadcast station licensees should also refer to § 73.1217 of this chapter.

**§ 11.46 EAS public service announcements.**

Broadcast stations may use Public Service Announcements or obtain commercial sponsors for announcements, informercials, or programs explaining the EAS to the public. Such announcements and programs may not be a part of alerts or tests, and may not simulate or attempt to copy alert tones or codes.

**§ 11.47 Optional use of other communications methods and systems.**

(a) Broadcast stations may additionally transmit EAS messages through other communications means than the main audio channel. For example, on a voluntary basis, FM stations may use subcarriers to transmit the EAS codes including 57 kHz using the RBDS standard produced by the National Radio Systems Committee (NRSC) and television stations may use subsidiary communications services.

(b) Other technologies and public service providers, such as DBS, low earth orbiting satellites, etc., that wish to participate in the EAS may contact the FCC's EAS office or their State Emergency Communication Committee for information and guidance.

[60 FR 56000, Nov. 6, 1995]

## Subpart D—Emergency Operations

**§ 11.51 EAS code and Attention Signal Transmission requirements.**

(a) Broadcast stations must transmit, either automatically or manually, national level EAS messages and required tests by sending the EAS header codes, Attention Signal, emergency message and End of Message (EOM) using the EAS Protocol. The Attention Signal must precede any emergency audio message. After January 1, 1998, the shortened Attention Signal may only be used as an audio alert signal and the EAS codes will become the minimum signalling requirement for National level messages and tests.

(b) Broadcast stations may transmit only the EAS header codes and the EOM code without the Attention Signal and emergency message for State and local emergencies. Television stations and cable systems should ensure that pauses in video programming before EAS message transmission do not cause television receivers to mute EAS audio messages. No Attention Signal is warranted for EAS messages that do not contain audio programming, such as a Required Weekly Test.

(c) Effective January 1, 1997, all radio and television stations shall transmit EAS messages in the main audio channel.

(d) By the above date, television stations shall transmit a visual message containing the Originator, Event, Location and the valid time period of an EAS message. If the message is a video crawl, it shall be displayed at the top of the television screen or where it will not interfere with other visual messages.

(e) Class D non-commercial educational FM stations as defined in § 73.506 of this chapter and low power TV stations as defined in § 74.701(f) of this chapter are not required to have equipment capable of generating the EAS codes and Attention Signal specified in § 11.31.

(f) Broadcast stations are responsible for ensuring that the equipment for generating the EAS codes and the Attention Signal shall modulate a broadcast station transmitter so that the signal broadcast to other broadcast stations and cable systems alerts them that the EAS is being activated or tested at the National, State or Local Area level. The minimum level of modulation for EAS codes, measured at peak modulation levels using the internal calibration output specified in § 11.32(a)(4) shall modulate the transmitter at no less than 80% of full channel modulation limits. Measured at peak modulation levels, each of the Attention Signal tones shall be calibrated separately to modulate the transmitter at no less than 40%. These two calibrated modulation levels shall have values that are within 1 dB of each other.

(g) Effective July 1, 1997, cable systems shall transmit EAS audio messages in the same order specified in paragraph (a) of this section. The Attention Signal may be produced from a storage device. Additionally, subject cable systems must:

(1) Install, operate, and maintain equipment capable of generating the EAS codes. The modulation levels for the EAS codes and Attention Signal for cable systems shall comply with the aural signal requirements in § 76.605 of this chapter. This will provide sufficient signal levels to operate cable subscriber television or radio receivers equipped with EAS decoders and to audibly alert subscribers.

(2) Provide a video interruption and an audio EAS message on all channels. The audio message must state which channel is carrying the visual EAS message.

(3) Subject cable systems shall transmit a visual EAS message on at least one channel. The message shall contain the Originator, Event, Location and the valid time period of the EAS message. If the visual message is a video crawl, it shall be displayed at the top of the subscriber's television screen or where it will not interfere with other visual messages.

(4) Cable systems shall provide a method to alert hearing impaired or deaf subscribers to EAS messages. Methods may include: a box that displays EAS messages and activates other alerting mechanisms or lights; visual messages on all channels; etc.

(5) Cable systems may elect not to interrupt EAS messages from broadcast stations based on a written agreement between all concerned.

(h) If manual interrupt is used as specified in paragraph (l) of this section, EAS Encoders must be located so that station or cable staff, at normal duty locations, can initiate the EAS code and Attention Signal transmission.

(i) Broadcast stations or cable systems that are co-owned and co-located with a combined studio or control facility (such as an AM and FM licensed to the same entity and at the same location or a cable headend serving more than one system) may provide the EAS transmitting requirements contained

in this section for the combined station or cable system with one EAS Encoder. The requirements of § 11.32 must be met for both the broadcast station and cable system.

(j) Broadcast stations and cable systems are required to transmit all received EAS messages in which the header code contains the Event codes for Emergency Action Notification (EAN), Emergency Action Termination (EAT), and Required Monthly Test (RMT), with the accompanying location codes for their State and State/county. These EAS messages shall be retransmitted unchanged except for the LLLLLLLL- code which identifies the broadcast station or cable system retransmitting the message. See § 11.31(c). If an EAS source originates any EAS messages with the above Event codes, it must include the location codes for the State and counties in its service area. When transmitting the required weekly test, broadcast stations and subject cable systems will use the event code RWT. The location codes will be the state and county for the broadcast station city of license or subject cable system community. Other location codes may be included upon approval of station or cable system management approval. EAS code requirements and examples are provided in the EAS Operating Handbook. Operations may be conducted automatically or manually.

(1) *Automatic* interrupt of programming and transmission of EAS messages is required when facilities are unattended and must include a permanent record that contains at a minimum the following information: Originator, Event, Location and valid time period of the message. The decoder performs the functions necessary to determine which EAS messages are automatically transmitted by the encoder.

(2) *Manual* interrupt of programming and transmission of EAS messages may be used. EAS messages with the EAN and EAT Event codes must be transmitted immediately and Monthly EAS test messages within 15 minutes. All actions must be logged or recorded.

(k) Broadcast stations and cable systems may employ a minimum delay feature, not to exceed 15 minutes, for automatic interrupt of EAS codes but

not for the EAN Event which must be transmitted immediately.

(l) Either manual or automatic operation of EAS equipment may be used at broadcast stations or cable systems that use remote control. If manual operation is used, an EAS decoder must be located at the remote control location and directly monitor the signals of the two assigned EAS sources. If direct monitoring of the assigned EAS sources is not possible at the remote location, automatic operation is required. If automatic operation is used, the remote control location may be used to override the transmission of an EAS message. Broadcast stations and cable systems may change back and forth between automatic and manual operation.

[59 FR 67092, Dec. 28, 1994, as amended at 60 FR 56000, Nov. 6, 1995]

#### **§ 11.52 EAS code and Attention Signal Monitoring requirements**

(a) Before January 1, 1998, broadcast stations must be capable of receiving the Attention Signal required by § 11.32(a)(9) and emergency messages of other broadcast stations during their hours of operation. Effective January 1, 1997, all broadcast stations must install and operate during their hours of operation, equipment capable of receiving and decoding, either automatically or manually, the EAS header codes, emergency messages and EOM code. The effective date for subject cable systems is July 1, 1997.

NOTE TO PARAGRAPH (A). After January 1, 1998, the two-tone Attention Signal will not be used to actuate two-tone decoders but will be used as an aural alert signal.

(b) If manual interrupt is used as specified in § 11.51(l)(2), decoders must be located so that operators at their normal duty stations at broadcast stations and cable systems can be alerted immediately when EAS messages are received.

(c) Broadcast stations or cable systems that are co-owned and co-located with a combined studio or control facility, (such as an AM and FM licensed to the same entity and at the same location or a cable headend serving more than one system) may provide the EAS monitoring requirements contained in

this section for the combined station or cable system with one EAS Decoder. The requirements of § 11.33 must be met for the combined station or cable system.

(d) Broadcast stations and subject cable systems must monitor the two EAS sources assigned in accordance with the monitoring priorities in the EAS Operating Handbook. The off-air monitoring assignments of each broadcast station and cable system are specified in the State EAS Plan and FCC Mapbook.

(1) If the required EAS sources cannot be received, alternate arrangements or a waiver may be obtained by written request to the FCC's EAS office. In an emergency, a waiver may be issued over the telephone with a follow up letter to confirm temporary or permanent reassignment.

(2) Broadcast station and cable system management will determine which header codes will automatically interrupt their programming for State and Local Area emergency situations affecting their audiences.

(e) A broadcast station or cable system is required to interrupt normal programming either automatically or manually when it receives an EAS message in which the header code contains the Event codes for Emergency Action Notification (EAN), Emergency Action Termination (EAT), or Required Monthly Test (RMT) for its State or State/county location.

(1) *Automatic* interrupt of programming is required when facilities are unattended. Automatic operation must provide a permanent record of the EAS message that contains at a minimum the following information: Originator, Event, Location and valid time period of the message.

(2) *Manual* interrupt of programming and transmission of EAS messages may be used. EAS messages with the EAN Event code must be transmitted immediately and Monthly EAS test messages within 15 minutes. All actions must be logged or recorded. Decoders must be programmed for the EAN and EAT Event header codes for EAS National level emergencies and the RMT and RWT Event header codes for required monthly and weekly tests, with